Nation

Volume 12, No. 02 • December 10, 2004

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Porte parole de l'opposition officielle en matière affaires autochtones et de développement du Nord québécois

Mes meilleurs vœux de bonheur, de joie et de paix vous accompagnent en ce moment de l'année si propice au ressourcement et au partage entre amis et en famille.

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année !

May this holiday season be filled with peace and contentment for all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Cree Regional Authority
Administration regional Crie

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(ᐃᓕᓴ ᐊᑎ)
Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris
(Eeyou Istchee)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone!

It is the time of the year to enjoy the company of our families and friends. Let us celebrate our children who bring joy and who hold the potentials and hope for the future of our communities and Nation. Let us do something special to celebrate our spouses and friends! Let us visit our elders and bring them some of the joy of the season!

I send a Merry Christmas to all of those who you have elected to form the Cree Nation Government and to their families who must accommodate their frequent absences from home while they do the work of the Nation. I also send special greetings and thanks to all who participate in the various boards, committees and negotiation processes in support of Cree rights and interests.

The work of the Cree Nation receives enormous support from our staff in administration and from those employed in social and environmental protection, economic relations, government relations, and in the services provided to the communities. A Merry Christmas and a heart felt thanks to all of you!

I also want to thank those Ministers and civil servants of the Government of Québec and Hydro Québec whose personal commitments to the process of working with the Cree Nation under the Paix des Braves are making this new relationship work. By working together in our common interests, we are making a difference.

The funding that now comes to the Cree Nation and the new laws and programs that have been and that are being developed provide work for our people and improve life in the communities. Look around you in the communities! There are more Crees working and there are new roads and buildings going up. We are once again planning for a bright future.

And I want to send thanks to those Ministers and civil servants in the Government of Canada whose efforts are bringing us closer to resolving the major outstanding issues that stem from the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. By looking toward new and innovative solutions I am sure that the Government of Prime Minister Martin will make history in improving the circumstances of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada.

We, the Cree Nation should look to the future with confidence. Together we are strong and we have the means to build a future for the young and for generations to come. Yes, we have challenges to face but we must deal with the impacts of rapid change on our lives. We must defeat diabetes, family problems and unemployment. We must improve our social programs and health services, invest in employment creation and we must also make the training of our people and the education of our children our first priority. We can do these things and the new agreements that are soon to be signed with Québec and with Canada, will increase our ability to address these problems.

There will always be those among us who complain. But I invite them to take a more positive view and to begin working to improve the things that they are concerned about. We are a people who in the face of change and adversity have always found ways to help others and to raise our families. Let us continue in this tradition!

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of a child that held hope for human kind. Our children are our hope for the future. Let us act with courage to build a bright future for our Nation.

Meegwetch and once again, Merry Christmas to all!

Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses, O. Q.
Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee

JOB POSTING

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The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay is a Cree entity responsible for the administration and delivery of community-based health and social services for 14, 000 Cree and non-Cree residents in its jurisdiction. We are presently seeking innovative applicants, dynamic leaders with compassion, dedication, and operational expertise to fill the following managerial position.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH HEALING SERVICES

General Responsibilities

The holder of this position contributes to the planning, and ensures the organization, delivery, and control of all youth readaptation services and programs (youth placed in the Readaptation Centre and Group Home in Mistissini and the Group Home in Chisasibi).

The Director of Youth Healing Services ensures the line management of human, material, financial , and information resources of the services within his/her jurisdiction: the Reception Centre and the two groups Homes
as well as participating in interdisciplinary programs and meetings. The responsibilities for programming, professional supervision, and evaluation are carried out in collaboration and respect of the functional responsibility of the Director Professional Services - Social.

The incumbent participates in developing the policies and regulations necessary for the Youth Healing Services to run its business and exercise its responsibilities.

There is a collaborative linkage with the Director of Youth Protection and the Director of Professional Services, Social for policy and program planning, development of individual services plans and case conference.

Required Education and Training

A Bachelor's degree in Social Work, or Psycho-Education or Social Services and 4 years experience in administration or supervision in a social service, youth services or readaptation environment. A certificate in Administration is an asset.

Knowledge of the MHSSQ laws and regulations for Youth Protection, Youth Criminal Justice Act and Readaptation Services;

Knowledge of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Section 14 is an asset;

Strong record in operational line management, human resources, and financial management;

Demonstrated ability to manage both the planning and development of new services and programs;

Knowledge of, or ability to grasp issues and context that related to First nation social services;

Experience in a clinical area of responsibility is a definite asset;

Excellent communications and interpersonal skills;

Fluent in Cree and English. Fluency in French is an asset;

Proven ability in promoting a strong team environment to development and achieve shared goals and objectives;

Computer literate

The ability to engage employees and other professionals in moving the organization forward through excellent and consistency.

Eligibility

This competition is open to qualified employees of the CBHSSJB and anyone living in the Cree territory that possesses the education and requirements for the position.

Working conditions

According to the MSSQ standards, the employer provides the housing and shoulders the costs for the moving and storage. The employment conditions also includes a Northern Allowance premium from $6,773 to $10,834. and 3 to 4 sorties depending on the incumbent's status single or with dependents. The position is based in Mistissini.

Qualified applicants should submit their covering letter and resume by **December 31, 2004** to the following:

Colette Fink, Coordinator of Human Resources Management - interim
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

P.O. Box 250
CHISASIBI (Quebec) J0M 1E0
Tel: (819) 855-9001 Ext. 5357
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E-mail: vsnowboy@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

We thank all applicants, but only those under consideration will be contacted for an interview.

More resources needed to treat mental health problems in Eeyou Istchee

By Steve Bonspiel

The Cree Health Board is not doing enough to ensure one of the most pressing health issues in Eeyou Istchee – mental health - is properly addressed; especially after the alarming rash of suicides in recent months.

But they are not the only ones to blame.

The CHB's 2003-2004 operating budget is pegged at $53 million, of which the lion's share ($23 million) goes toward the inland and coastal CLSCs.

The mental health portfolio for the nine communities falls under the inland CLSCs' budget of $10.4 million. According to Helen Atkinson, the Communications Director at the CHB, less than $800,000 of that budget is actually spent on mental health.

One of the problems, she says, is that not enough money is available to the Health Board from the Quebec government – something which the CHB hopes to change during negotiations for next year's budget.

If people have wondered why there are no full-time psychologists and psychiatrists in Eeyou Istchee, the money issue is only part of it.

Atkinson also said there is a shortage of housing. That's another failure of the Quebec government, which has not ensured that sorely needed professionals have a place to live in each community.

The CHB is hoping the next budget will provide funding for full-time psychologists in all nine communities. It should be signed in the next few weeks.

Until now, the budget has dictated the "deal-with-it-as-it-happens" practice of calling in the psychologists and psychiatrists after a suicide has occurred to cope with the grief and mourning.

But the government and the money it hands out can only take so much of the blame. The figures speak for themselves. Why is mental health one of the CHB's smallest spending priorities?

The people who need help represent the past, present and future of the Cree Nation. They should have someone to talk to when feeling depressed or bored or suicidal.

Speaking to different people who have dealt with suicide first hand, I have felt a real helplessness when they discussed the deaths of their son or daughter, or father or mother. Where could they turn to for help? When the system isn't even available to help protect your loved ones, it can get very lonely by yourself.

People need to talk more about their feelings. One way to take a proactive stance would be to start a support group that meets once or twice a week.

The more we talk about what's going on in our lives the better equipped with knowledge and strength we will be to deal with the problems that come with living in Native communities.

In Montreal and most other towns – no matter how small – there are numerous support groups for people to call or visit to help figure out their repressed feelings. But where can Cree youth turn when they have a problem? What about the older generations?

After speaking with professionals in the field, I concluded that although some things are in place to help the people of Chisasibi, such as a 24-hour hotline, there is still a much more that needs to be done in the rest of the Cree territory.

Chisasibi Hospital's Dr. Michael Lefson recognizes the need for full-time mental health professionals. These doctors only visit the community every two or three weeks, if that.

If there was something to improve on, he said, it would be having a professional in the community when needed – full time.

What about the smaller communities that don't have a hospital or a 24-hour hotline, like Eastmain or Nemaska? They seem to be falling through the cracks.

Isn't it time more was done to address the root of one of the biggest health issues in Eeyou Istchee – the state of mental anguish of the people?

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on the cover

Wemindji girl with puppies

Photo: Danielle Valade
Design: M. Laviolette

rez notes

Career Day for Wimps

Sonny Orr

Often I tend to look at life with a sarcastic twist, some would even say from a bizarre viewpoint, but life is not always what it looks to be, at face value or superficially. The model-thin women who prance the walkway often plead the cause of world peace as the initiative behind their exhibitionistic qualities. The hero of many a soap opera, often some sand-blasted wind-swept hairdo tanned-beyond-belief sex god, has not the worry of the common man. Where is the rest of humanity? In front of the boob tube like the good little viewers they are.

This I call wimp central, the hub of all good (wannabe) men and women, who cannot envision themselves ever going beyond their respective lifestyles and taking on what could be a better life for all. In Cree world, there isn't enough room for wimps or wannabes. The real Cree world demands that all have to be good hunters, fishermen, camp keepers, cooks and fish gutters, axe wielders and paddlers, goose and duck pluckers, fur tanners and waterproof moccasin makers and the list goes on. When, in the near future, time for recruitment of such worldly and knowledgeable people to maintain our Cree lifestyles draws near, we will have to draft common wimps and wannabes into the folds of Eeyou Istchee and make real men and women out of them.

The perfect example of a wimp is someone who cries at the sight of blood drawn by mosquitoes off of pallid skin, denies that trails go more than a mile, insist that potable water can only be bought at the store in bottles, declares that the world starts at nine o'clock every day except on week ends (where it doesn't matter what time of the day the day starts), insists that all meals be eaten at a table and must be made on an electric stove, thinks that name brand expensive clothing is their true identity, and has never seen food that has not been frozen and/or pre-packaged. In fact, many true blue wimps and wannabes cannot believe that a breakfast cereal (which is a staple food for many) actually was grown from the ground at a farm not far from their neighbourhood!

These types of people are perfect candidates for initiation into Eeyou Istchee, where life begins at pre-dawn and the day ends when it's dark outside. Life is something that can be challenging for those with fear of the great outdoors, but when push comes to shove, all who are immersed in the Cree way of life, never want to come back to the madness of modern day life and hear another road-raged driver honk their horn incessantly, or ever want to hear the daily ramblings of the newscasters depicting doom and gloom, or ever even want to believe the weatherman when the storm rages on for days and says that sunny days are really coming soon. Ha!

Give me the weak and depressed wimps and wannabes and I'll turn them into denizens of the true north, returning as Nordic gods and wearing T-shirts that proclaim them as survivors of a canoe trip, or a 100-kilometre long snowmobile trek, or stating that they never, ever tore the skin of a goose while plucking up a feathery storm, or enjoyed the succulent taste of steamed-boiled moose nostril. Wouldn't the image of southerners change if they were to actually act out the "true north strong and free" and walk a mile in our moccasins? Wouldn't there be more respect for our lifestyle if one were to truly experience our daily lives as real people of Eeyou Istchee? Welcome, wimps and wannabes, to our world.

the Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications

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INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS: $45
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PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005
ISSN #1206-2642
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WASWANIPI DIVIDED OVER FIRING RANGE?

By Steve Bonspiel

Some Waswanipi residents are firing back at SNC-Lavalin and their proposal to build an artillery range on residents' traplines, but others are still undecided and at least one family has agreed to the project.

SNC Technologies held an information session in Waswanipi and Chapais in early November. Their goal was to promote the site to test 105-millimetre shells manufactured for the Canadian Armed Forces and for NATO.

The Nation spoke with Rose Dixon, whose father Lawrence's trapline will be affected. "I don't believe we should be exchanging money for our land," she said. "We love the land, as our ancestors did. I feel we should always be able to use this land as Native people."

Lawrence lives on his trapline year round and his daughter fears the range will affect his way of life.

"I'm very concerned about the noise. According to Comex [the examination committee that has two Cree representatives], the firing range would be across the lake from my father's goose blind. This is a very small lake. I'm very concerned about the noise and the impact it'll have on the animals like the beaver, bear and fish," said a perplexed Dixon, whose family trapline is five to seven kilometres from Chapais, and 92 kilometres from Waswanipi.

Dixon said she didn't get a good feeling from the company. "I can feel when someone is honest, and I didn't feel that way with SNC."

After preliminary scouting for a site, SNC determined that Chapais was the best place for the artillery range.

One obstacle is language, as Dixon must act as an interpreter for her father. "My father cannot say very much because he's not able to express himself in either French or English. He's also a very quiet man. He doesn't like arguments. He wants peace," she exclaimed.

"He feels very sad. He lives in fear because of this project, wondering what he's going to leave to his children and his grandchildren."

"He feels very sad. He lives in fear because of this project, wondering what he's going to leave to his children and his grandchildren."

One family had a differing view. In a letter obtained from SNC by the *Nation*, Malcolm Dixon, whose land is on trapline W-23, agreed to the testing.

The letter reads in part:

THAT in consideration of his extremely old age and the state of health of Mr. Malcolm Dixon and his wife, the said Letter of Intent and Spirit is understood to clear the way for a process to be set up for negotiations leading to a compensation package for the Dixon family as proposed by SNC TEC.

Malcolm Dixon could not be reached for comment.

Some residents in Chapais are opposed to the project. "The contamination [of the soil] will come mostly from the source because of the oil in the machines," said Isabelle Duval.

She says that the project won't be an economic boom for Chapais like the proponents promised and the only jobs created will be for clean-up and security.

"They say they might stop testing for two weeks during the big game hunting season, but the people think that the hunt for small game will be compromised," she said.

When the *Nation* spoke with Michael O'Neill, Comex's secretary, he said that neither the Waswanipi band nor the Chief has relayed to the board their position regarding the range, even though they were slated to discuss the matter and review the impact on the land December 8.

A call to Waswanipi Chief Robert Kitchen confirmed that the band hadn't yet passed a resolution against the firing range, nor had they contacted Comex to express their position.

Chief Kitchen told us that they were opposed to the project but hadn't stated their intentions yet.

"SNC was pushing for us to get it done quickly, but we are going to go by our own pace," said Kitchen.

"We were going to adopt a resolution against the firing range on December 14, however with this new information I guess we'll have to have an emergency meeting," he said.

continued on page 7

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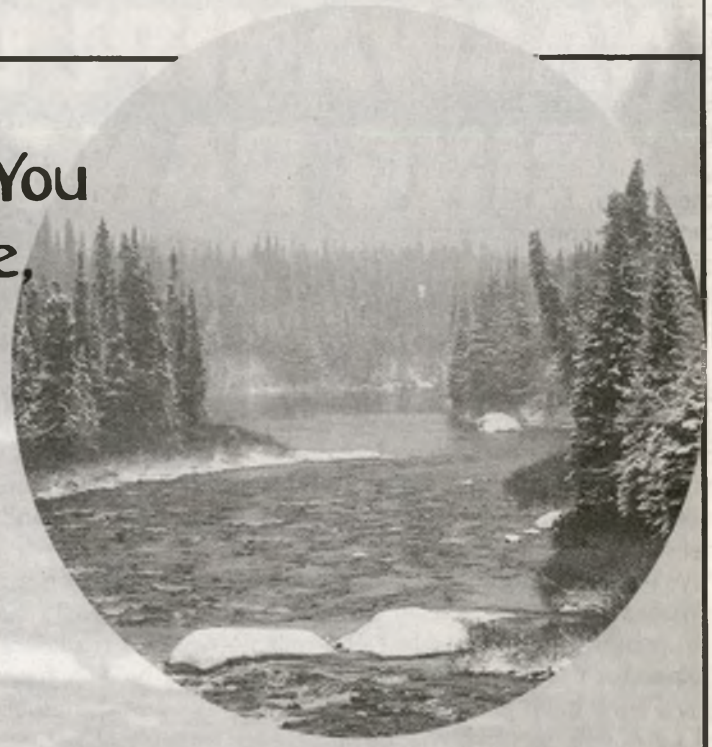
The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay

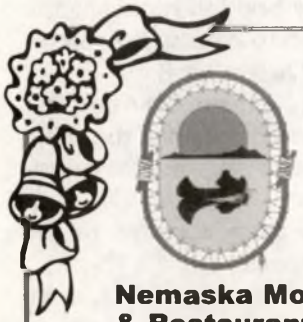
May Christmas bring You
and your Family Peace,
Joy and Good Health.

Happy Holidays



Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.
May you all have a Merry Christmas
And a prosperous New Year in 2005 !

Chief John Longchap, the council and members
of the **CREE NATION OF MISTISSINI**



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At this special time of the year,
we present our best wishes
for joyful holidays.

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Kitchen explained the delay in stating the band's position is due to council's efforts to hear all sides on the issue. "At first the tallymen and the CTA thought the project would be good for the community because of the employment it would create. Now they have come out against it because of environmental concerns, and the impact it would have on their traplines," said Kitchen.

SNC Technologies spokesperson Danielle Cantin said that the company is there to work with the people. "If the project goes through and some people have problems with it because of the noise or something else, we will help to accommodate them," she said. "We want to work with the Cree people, not against them."

Cantin went on to say that the Comex review was not so much about environmental concerns but was more of a study on the social implications.

"Environment Canada has done a very big study over 50 years at Lac St. Pierre in Nicolet, and concluded that this project is not harmful to the environment," she said.

"One of the dangers before SNC took over the project was that the ammunition would land in the lake unexploded. Since SNC took over from the National Defense there have not been any incidents like this. We have radar to track the munitions and if one doesn't explode, we will stop the project to find out why."

Allan Gull, whose family's trapline will be directly affected, was one of many who voiced their concerns when SNC met with members of Waswanipi on November 3.

His father Clarence is sick and is not able to use the trapline anymore. Taking care of it in his place are Allan and brothers Jimmy, Stanley and Benoit, who also acts as the tallyman.

"There's virgin forest that hasn't been touched in a long time that Native and non-native people hunt in," said Allan, the most outspoken of the brothers. "It's an area my family likes to hunt in.

"If they come in and test the ammunition for 12 months a year for 30 years straight... the animals have very strong hearing and it would hurt them and chase them away and because of that I don't agree with this project," Gull said, adding that if it was the wish of his family to accept compensation from SNC for use of the land, he would go along with what they decide.

"This is Cree territory, if my family disagrees with the project I'll never stop fighting it."

Waskaganish after-school project launched

An ambitious after-school project sponsored by the Cree Regional Authority in collaboration with the Cree School Board has kicked off in earnest in Waskaganish.

The program allows parents to bring their kids to the school for supervision at 8 am until school starts. It also includes supervision from 11 am to 1 pm, and from 3 pm to 6 pm. The cost is $7 a day.

But there's more to it than supervision. According to Anita Kitty, one of the coordinator's for the program, there are many activities for kids' aged 5-12.

"They can play board games, create handicrafts, and learn how to cook, play sports, or other activities. There's also a time for kids to do their homework," she said.

It's been a resounding early success. November 29 marked the first day and 20 children attended. Kitty said that the program could accommodate up to 60 kids.

"It's for parents who work late and don't have a babysitter to look after their kids after school," she said.

It may have started in Waskaganish, but the program is slated to become a part of other schools' curriculum shortly.

Residential schools claims bogged down in bureaucracy – AFN

The Assembly of First Nations says it has a better plan to administer the dispute resolution process arising out of claims for abuse in Canada's native residential schools.

In a report released last month, *Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to Compensate for Abuses in Indian Residential Schools*, the AFN analyzes the federal government's current Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process, administered by the federal office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada, and finds it grossly inefficient.

Only 19 claims have been settled under the current ADR process and it is estimated there are as many as 12,000 residential schools survivors involved in class-action lawsuits.

The AFN report notes that, at the current pace, it will take 53 years to settle all claims at a cost of $2.3 billion in 2002 dollars, and this does not even include the actual settlement costs.

"The current ADR process is an adversarial system that is not working and is in fact re-victimizing many survivors," said National Chief Fontaine. "It is failing Canadians by wasting taxpayers' dollars. It is failing First Nations and all Canadians by denying timely and just compensation."

If the government adopts the approach recommended in the AFN report, all claims could be resolved by December 2010 in a more cost-efficient manner, Fontaine said. It recommends a two-pronged approach to improve the current process. The first part involves fair and reasonable compensation, including a lump-sum payment that would be awarded to all survivors (or their descendants), along with an additional amount for each year spent in the school. Survivors can also be compensated for severe emotional abuse as well as physical and sexual abuse.

May the Creator keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy throughout the Holidays and in the New Year from all the staff at

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season's greetings!

Phil Fontaine
National Chief

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and AFN Regional Chiefs, I wish you a joyous and memorable holiday season.

May the Creator keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy throughout the New Year.

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May the peace of the Holiday season be yours throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas !

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The second part of the report puts forward the concept of creating a national mechanism for truth-sharing, healing and reconciliation.

"We have always said that healing is about more than cutting a cheque," said National Chief Fontaine. "The after-shocks are still being felt today and we cannot move forward until we have healed ourselves as individuals and as a country."

The report concludes that the current ADR process is seriously flawed in a number of ways, notably:

- It treats survivors unequally;
- It fails to address or compensate for forced labour, loss of family life, emotional abuse and loss of language and culture;
- The application forms are unnecessarily complicated, intimidating and confusing;
- It takes too long and its administrative costs are disproportionately high compared with the number of settlements;
- It does not address the need for truth-sharing, public education and awareness.

The Report on Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to Compensate for Abuses in Indian Residential Schools is available for download at www.afn.ca .

Algonquins Allege Quebec Riot Police Beat Women

Sureté du Québec officers arrested and incarcerated 28 Algonquins November 24 near Twin Rapids, Quebec. The Algonquins were part of a logging blockade that saw two sawmills near Val d'Or and Malartic shut down for lack of wood. Algonquin leaders said they were only hours away from resolving the issue when the arrests took place. They say Domtar refused to wait for the solution to the long-running dispute.

Quebec's special Riot Task Force charged a crowd of women and beat them with batons while the Algonquin men were trapped by the police behind a barricade, said members of the Lac Simon and Long Point First Nations. The few men who managed to intervene were quickly subdued in the same way.

The Chiefs of the two communities were released November 28.

"In all my years of negotiating arrangements between governments and aboriginal communities, I have never seen such an unnecessary and irresponsible provocation by a multi-national corporation," said Peter Politis, Lead Negotiator for the Algonquins.

The violence aggravates an already tense situation.

"Eventually people just become tired of being pushed around," said one outraged community member, Bear McMartin. "First we will free our women. Then we will regroup and put an end to this once and for all."

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine and Quebec Regional Chief Ghislain Picard have offered any assistance that would help bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

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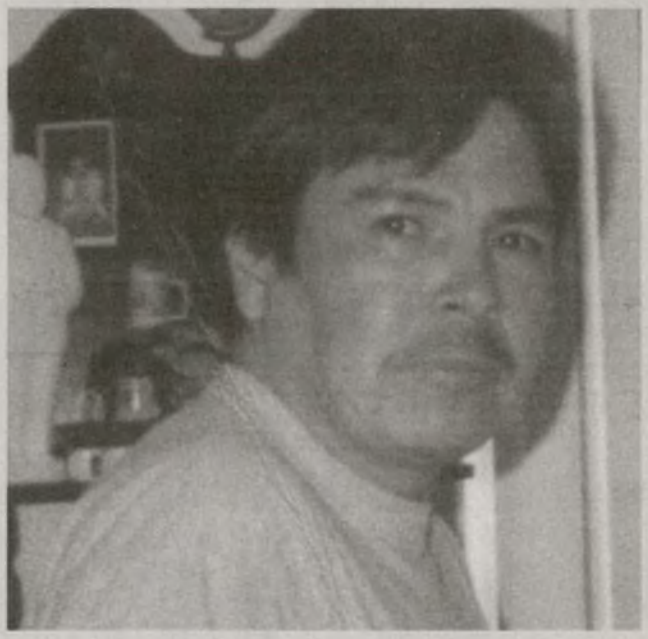


ANDREW SHECAPIO

Prospector and lover of the forest

He was last seen on Thursday November 25th in La Sarre

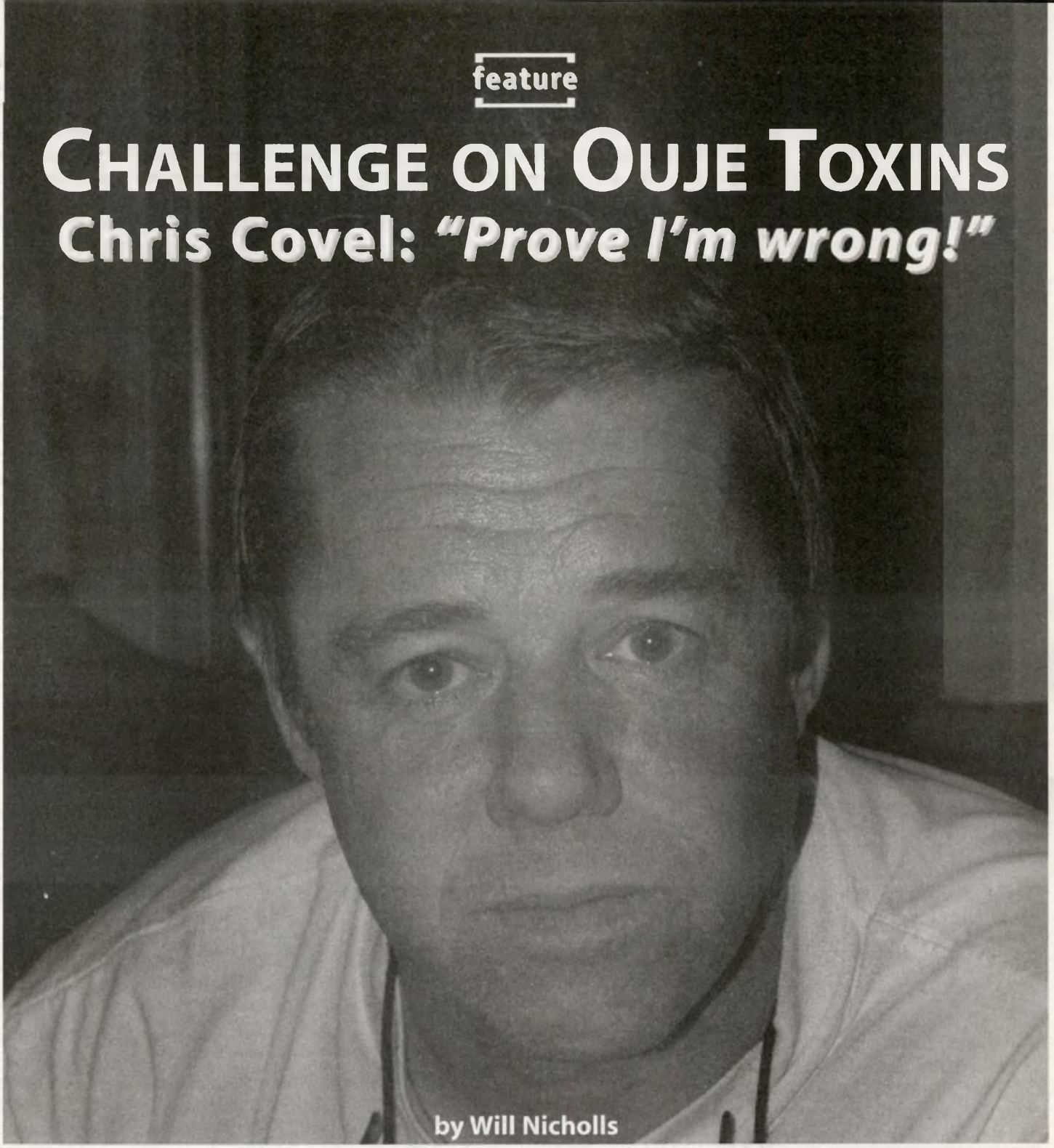
His family is very worried, if you have any information that could help locate him, please call Elizabeth Bosum at (819) 921-3918, Evadney Shecapio at (418) 770-6612. Or directly to the Sûreté du Québec

Thanks for your help!

feature

Challenge on Ouje Toxins

Chris Covel: *"Prove I'm wrong!"*



by Will Nicholls

A year has passed since the *Nation* last tackled the Ouje-Bougoumou heavy metal toxins issue. The magazine decided to let that issue rest for a year out of respect for the family of the late Joseph Shecapio-Blacksmith. Joseph was the driving force behind the fight to clean up the toxic waste problem near O.J. and he will be missed.

The problem, however, has not been dealt with and many people, it appears, hope that it will just disappear. Others, both Cree and non-Cree, are interested in insuring the battle to save the watershed around Ouje-Bougoumou is fully brought into the public's eye. One of those is Christopher Covel. Covel was the geologist who first looked at the problem after being requested to do so by O-J David Bosum. Bosum asked Covel if mines can make fish sick.

The answer, unfortunately, is yes. The danger of it working its way up the food chain is real. The Quebec government admitted it knew about the problem two years before Covel talked about it. They attempted to call Covel's work "bad science" and the

Grand Council, who he had worked for initially, now says he has a tendency to grandstand and that they take what he says with a grain of salt.

Even if Covel is grandstanding, if what he says is true then we should all worry about the future of Ouje-Bougoumou and its people.

The Nation: When did you first go to Eeyou Istchee and why?

Christopher Covel: I first went there in March 2000 as a graduate student from Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, NH. The title of the class was titled Cree Culture in a Sustainable Community: Ouje Bougoumou.

Why?

I had wanted to go to somewhere in the northern climates for many years, I had been to Bolivia, Mexico, and many places in the world which were tropical, desert or European communities. I always wanted to go on an adventure in my own neighbourhood. I felt as if I was always missing something in my soul. I had been in the United States Air Force and traveled extensively as a member of a flight crew. However, I always wanted to get in my car and actually drive straight north until the road ended. When the opportunity arose to do it and for college credits it seemed too good to be true and I jumped at the chance. I had learned from my travels throughout the world there was always something a person could learn from another culture, both good and bad. I wanted to learn what my neighbours were doing to the north. It always seemed so close but yet so remote.

So it wasn't for the O-J toxins to begin with?

Absolutely not. That was the last thing that I ever expected. I would not even know about it if it weren't for a tallyman asking me "can mines make fish sick? This was after at least a week in the bush and the tallyman asked me what I did "down south for work."

What was your first reaction when you saw the sites?

It was very internal pain and shock. I didn't want to scare my friend. If anything I must say for the rest of my life I will never forget that millisecond. My brain said, "Oh my god. This is one of the worst contaminated sites I have ever seen in my life."

More than 15 years in the business and I thought I had seen it all. I was shown I was wrong. I was very worried, angry, and shocked. You see, as a citizen of the United States, we always had these images taught to us that Canada was pristine and the government protected its land and people like a mother protects her young. When I saw the tailings and kill zones it reminded me of a Third World country like Bolivia. I could literally not believe it. I felt disgust, betrayal, anger, shock; I knew I had been lied to. I knew if I did not act on what I saw I could not consider myself a human being. Something had to be done and I guess that was why the Creator sent me there, to act on this. I couldn't not talk because then I would just be a part of a cover up.

You briefly worked for the Grand Council before being replaced. What did you do?

I documented the heavy-metal contamination that existed in three locations. It was a pilot project to get the attention of the government. It was to prove the ecosystem was, and still is, being contaminated with arsenic, chromium, cyanide, selenium, copper, etc. etc. These are all wastes produced by mining gold and copper.

Who replaced you and what did you think of their work?

No one replaced me. There were two government studies which came out of my work. One was a Health Risk Assessment that was supposed to focus on the contaminants from the mine but instead turned out to be an "Exposure and Preliminary Health Assessments of the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Population to Mine Tailings Residues". This document stated that it was a draft dated August 28, 2003. It also stated in the title it was a "Preliminary" document. There has

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and
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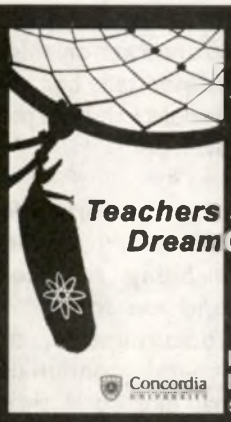

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never been a final report as far I know. The problem I have with the preliminary draft document is that nowhere in the study did the document focus on a health risk between the people living near the mines consuming the fish and water. It focused on the entire population of the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree in the village. This basically is not a representative sample of the Crees which have been most affected by the contamination.

The Quebec government admitted they knew about the problem two years before my report ever was produced and made public. In this case it looks like manifest destiny, only instead of the government of the United States and the railroad barons taking over Native lands going west towards the Pacific Ocean, it is the government of Quebec and the mining companies taking over the Native lands northward. It's the same thing 150 years later – just a different government.

The other report on the environmental impact assessment was supposed to be released in October 2003. We are still waiting and my sources tell

me it is finished. It is said to show widespread contamination and won't be released because of the outrage it is expected to create. To me this is simply an outrage.

You've been accused of grandstanding and doing bad science. How do you respond to these allegations?

I am right; no one can prove me wrong. The only option the government-paid scientists have is to create a smoke screen and call me names. Well, they can throw rocks and try to discredit me. Their hope is that the people get confused and will not know who or what to believe. If the government-paid scientists want to say I am "grandstanding" I couldn't care less. Let them prove me wrong. Let them bring in a team of international independent scientists to analyze what I say is going on in the mine areas.

A challenge to all who say I am "grandstanding": prove me wrong. I challenge them to prove me wrong. I could care less how many letters or degrees a person has after their name or how many publications they have. The fact is they can't say I am wrong because they know I am right.

Let's work together to clean up the toxic mess. Name calling is for kids on the playground and I won't have any part of it. The data is the data. The facts are the facts. Deal with it.

I am tired of the political dance. People are dying, ecosystems are being destroyed, and the Cree people have no idea how systemic the problem is. It is time for everyone to ask the right questions to get the right answers. They say I am "grandstanding" because they are afraid of me and the truth. It is about money, not grandstanding or egos.

continued on page 15

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and all year through.

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to all the Cree communities.
from the staff and council of the Cree Nation of Wemindji

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I understand that a New Hampshire lab worker told you that the sample contained the highest amount of arsenic he had ever seen in 20 years. What does this mean and what kinds of things did they find?

It means people who get near the tailings are at a risk of dying from arsenic poisoning. The levels we have seen are not natural. The levels are over 10,000 times higher than normal.

So it wasn't a mercury thing. I thought that was one of the complaints against you? Mercury had nothing to do with my study. It happened to be one of the metals that are analyzed under the metals test I had run on my samples. Mercury has its complicated problems and there are plenty of scientists studying the effects of mercury. No, my work had nothing to do about mercury. This is just another example of muddying the waters to prevent the focus on the real problem – uncontrolled mine waste continuing to this second to enter the environment.

How bad would you say this problem was?

One of the worst I have ever seen. I have been doing this work since 1985 and this clearly ranks in the worst three. What makes it worse is no one will do anything about it. The other two were a Bolivia gold mine in the Andes Mountains – 14,500 feet above sea level. When the Bolivian government realized the natives and the animals were dying they immediately forced the company to fix the problem. That is why I was there. The other was in the United States in Idaho on the Coeur d'Alene lands. The United States government began cleaning up that area back in the 1980s after the Coeur d'Alene Tribe won a court case against the government of the United States. Both sites are still undergoing cleanup.

You lost a friend to the toxins. What did that feel like?

It is such a loss I get sick to my stomach every time I think about it.

If you were a Cree what would you be saying?

It has been over a year now for many things. It has been over a year since Joseph Shecapio-Blacksmith died, and over a year that they have not released his cause of death as he requested be done. It has been over a year since the government of Quebec was supposed to release their Environmental Impact Study on the admitted mining contamination in the Oujé-Bougoumou area. It has been over a year since the government of Quebec released a Health Risk Assessment which did not mention the mines when allegedly that is what the report was supposed to address: mining contamination health issues. It has been over one year since the USA went to war in the Middle East, causing the price of gold and copper to increase by sabre rattling and using the increased gold and copper production to fuel the war machine and the war mongers' pockets. It has been over one year since anyone has mentioned the mining contamination or Joseph.

Over one year. Over one year and still the heavy metals from the toxic mine tailings continue to leach into the water, the "blood" of the Cree peoples. Over one year and the leaders have been silent on this issue. One year too long.

Over one year since Joseph and I met with Senator John Sununu in Manchester, New Hampshire, where the Senator said to Joseph, "How can I help you?" Over one year since Joseph walked out of that meeting, turned to me in amazement and said, "I have been asking for help from our government for so many years and no one has ever said that to me." Over one year since the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent back a three page letter to Joseph with nine contact people who could help him. The leaders only had to ask.

Over one year since Joseph and I went to the Annual First Nations Conference in Boise, Idaho, to see and talk to the Coeur d'Alene Eenou to see how they got the US government to clean up their problem of waste from the gold and copper toxic waste tailings. Over one year since Joseph and I reviewed the laboratory analysis from Aquarian Analytical, Inc. documenting levels of heavy metals thousands of times over the legal limit. Over one year since CBC released three documentaries on Maamuitaau showing the contamination going into waters of the Chibougamau, Obatagamau and Doré lakes. It has been over one year since I first saw it with my own probing geologic eyes.

No. I am wrong. It actually all began almost five years ago. It has however, been over one year since the government acknowledged it knew about the problem. How many more years? How many more lakes? How many more fish? How many more ecosystems? How many more lives?

How many more years until the government of Quebec proves the Agreement in Principal (AIP) works: new ways to show the world how aboriginal peoples and governments work together. If this is the way the Cree leaders and the Quebec government are going to work together it may only be a generation before the Cree Eenou/Eeyou no longer exists. The Cree slide into history as have most other great indigenous cultures of this earth.

We have been without our friend Joseph Shecapio-Blacksmith for over a year. He is still waiting. So am I. I am still alive. I am not going away. It has been over a year. Actually it has been over 50 years. Where is the leadership? Is this what the AIP brought? Continuous pain and suffering for the Cree? My wait is over. The government has had their chance to prove me wrong and they didn't. I made a promise. I gave my word to Joseph. The time for talking is over. The time to clean up the toxic wasteland is now. I will never give up.

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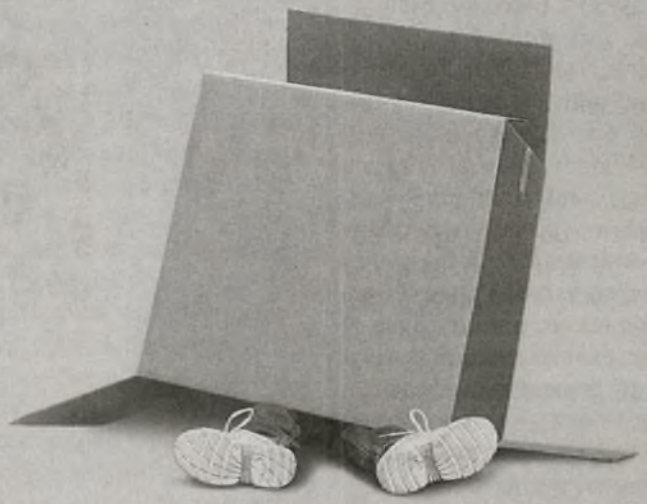

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Merry Christmas !

From the *Whapmagoostui* First Nation

To be quite honest I do not want to talk about it, it is too painful. It hurts too much.

What would you say the Crees have to do to end this problem?

Elect people immediately who care about the health and welfare of the Cree people and are not afraid to stand up to the government of Quebec. Elect people who care about their fellow human beings and not about money. People who will not sell the soul of the Earth for short term gain of power and money. Then force the world to help fix the problem. Believe me if it can be done in Bolivia, South America, then it can be done in the Cree Nation. Make every voice be heard. Hold every person and every company accountable. Make it not cost effective to destroy the Earth. Money is the only thing these people understand. Do that and the problem can be fixed.

What should we make all future mines do?

Hold them accountable to the highest environmental standards in the World. Insure an independent group of scientists and engineers watch their every move and insure as Crees you have the authority to order a cease-and-desist order if the mines fail to comply with environmental standards. There are safe ways to mine so force the mining companies to use them. Have the mining companies put money in escrow to clean up anything they walk away from. Then and only then will they care about the people and the Earth as much as the profits. If anyone wants to start up the vanadium mine, my advice would be to don't let it open until the companies do what I just said.

----------> **YOUTH SUICIDE**
Letter to the Cree Nation <----------

Youth suicide amongst Native Youth is at epidemic highs across Canada. Over 2, 500 Youth attempt suicide each year, and 250 of those are successful. Not only the Youth are affected by suicide, but, it can hit anyone, at anytime and any place.

As a Youth Leader in my Cree Community of Ouje-Bougoumou, I believe that our Nation is at a very high risk. The suicide stories we hear each year in the media is devastating to Eeyou Istchee and our Nation. Many of us are affected by suicide, whether we know the person or not, it affects us personally.

Personally, I have never had anyone close to me commit suicide before, but I did however, had a loved one attempt suicide one time. Being not an expert or a certified Master suicide intervention trainer, I had no idea how to help this person, So, I only said what was in my heart. I loved this person very much, and I did not want this person to leave. There was so much in store for this person's future. So, I helped in any way that I can. To this day, I can see that this person has changed a lot and now has a family. I have helped this person, and am proud to say that I have saved a life. You can too. We all can...

Therefore, we, as a people need to help create a program to help combat this important issue. We need to raise the awareness of the tragic problems that our Youth face against suicide. As an elder once stated that "when we pretend that the problem is not there, communication is the healer to break that silence."

I believe that a Youth Suicide Prevention Walk would be loud voice to help facilitate this issue. The walk would help engage the Youth to deal with their problems in a healthy and save environment. Like someone once told me "If one voice can make a song, than one person can change the world". Now, just imagine how many people can get involved and help ONE person.

As per my conversation with Mr. Brian Bishop, Director of Youth Protection in Chisasibi, he suggested that I cc copied his letter to all the NADAP Workers and the Community Health Representatives in the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. Publicity in The Nation would also be appropriate I suggested.

I truly hope this Youth Suicide Prevention Walk will somehow be successful within the year. If you or anyone has any suggestions, propositions or commentary, you can contact me at the Petaapin Youth Center during working hours.

Naomi Bosum

TEL.: (418) 745-3366
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Petaapin Youth Department of
Ouje-Bougoumou

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We wish you all the best during the Christmas season and New Year.

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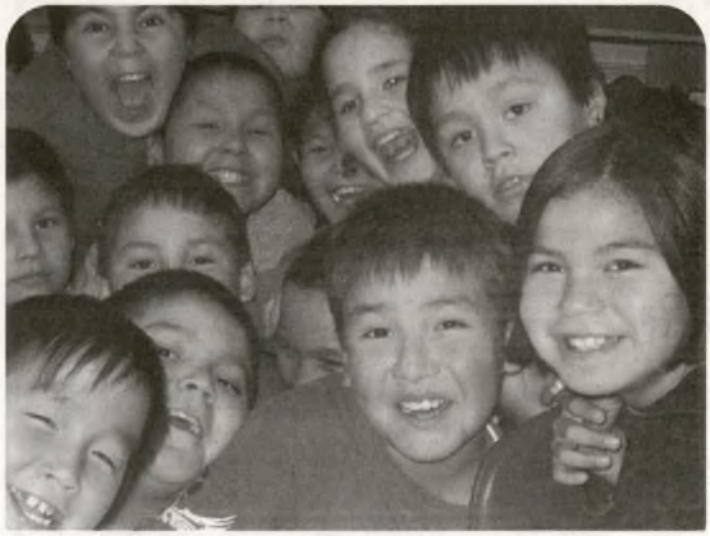
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Christmas Wishes

by Norman Fireman

In this Pulse of the Nation we go to Chisasibi. We visited the teachers and Grade 3 and 4 students at the James Bay Eeyou School. We asked them for their Christmas wish-list. All the students first of all would like to wish everyone especially their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.



Grade 3: Elisha Bobbish wants a mini-ski-doo and **Mariette Bobbish** wants a sled to go sliding. **Matthew Duff** also wants a Mini-ski-doo and a sled. **Jeremy Wapachee** wants also a sled and a Playstation 2. **Trisha Sam** just wants skates for Christmas. And **Jane Pachano** says she would like a mini ski-doo and a Gameboy Advance.

Grade 4: Thomas Ekomiak wants a mini skidoo and a Game Cube. **Tamara Neacappo** said she wants a mini ski-doo also and a Game Cube. **Crystal Pachano** wants a sled and a Barbie doll. **Agnes Sam** would like a Game Cube and a Barbie doll. **Christiana Snowboy** also is hoping for a mini ski-doo and a Game Cube.

As for the teachers, **Agnes Shem** says, "I just want Santa to bring me firewood for the Cultural camp, we're always out of wood."

Susan Scipio, who teaches Pre-K,

continued on page 21

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Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.

Pork Chops with Apples

2	center-cut pork chops (1/2 inch thick trimmed of all fat)	
2 teaspoons	low-fat margarine	10 ml
1 cup	sliced apples	250 ml
1/2 teaspoon	ground cinnamon	2 ml
1/4 teaspoon	salt	1 ml
1/4 teaspoon	freshly ground pepper	1 ml

Melt your low-fat margarine in a large non-stick frying pan, and then sauté your apples until they are tender (but not mushy!). Sprinkle your cinnamon on them and then set aside on a serving plate.

Fry the pork chops in the liquid from the apples until they are almost cooked, turning them enough so that they are brown on both sides. Sprinkle them with your salt and pepper. Cook until the chops are done (be careful not to overcook them as they might become rubbery).

Arrange the chops on two plates and serve the apples over them. Makes 2 servings.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION PER SERVING
Calories: 236, protein: 18 g, carbohydrates: 9 g, dietary fibre: 1.2 g, total fat: 14 g, cholesterol: 63 mg, sodium: 338 mg.

Northern

continued from page 19

says, "I want a new two-storey house for Christmas. That's all."

William Cox, who teaches Cree culture: "I just want snowshoe frames. I want Santa to chop them down on his way to Chisasibi."

Sarah Herodier: "I want a dishwasher for Christmas. Either I don't have time or I'm just too lazy."

We went to see some community members as well.

Tom "Boy'ish" Wadden: "All I want for Christmas is that people would remember Jesus Christ, who came to die for us. I wish everyone a merry Christmas and be thankful for all God has done for you."

Allan Neacappo: "I just want to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everybody and a safe holidays especially to those who lost their loved ones."

Chief Abraham Rupert: "I would like to say wachiya to everybody in the Cree Nation. I wish you all safe holidays and take care of each other and think about the children because that's what Christmas is all about and remember the wonderful gift we received from the Creator. I wish everyone a merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

When asked what he would like for Christmas Rupert said, "They're working on my house as of now, I just wish I could move in for Christmas."

Eastmain-1-A Powerhouse and Rupert Diversion

Filing of the Environmental Impact Statement

As the year 2004 comes to an end, the environmental impact statement is about to be filed with the appropriate authorities. The representatives of the Boumhounan Committee would like to inform the James Bay Cree communities that the cooperative effort between the Crees and Hydro-Québec/SEBJ is far from over, with more information sessions planned for early 2005. Until then, the representatives remain available to answer all your questions.

Che miyeyihtamekw makusheuchilahikaache!

In this spirit of cooperation, the members of the Boumhounan Committee offer you their best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

For more information, contact your local representative.

Stanley Gilpin (Eastmain)
Phone: (819) 977-0211
Wilbert Shecapio (Mistissini)
Phone: (418) 923-2882
Lawrence Jimiken (Nemaska)
Phone: (819) 673-2126
Simeon Trapper (Waskaganish)
Phone: (819) 895-2662
Donald Gilpin
(Cree Trappers' Association)
Phone: (819) 977-2165
Paul Gull
(Cree Regional Administration)
Phone: (819) 753-0264
or Montréal contact:
Glen Cooper
Phone: (514) 861-5837
Robbie Tapiatic
(Chisasibi Coordinator)
Phone: (819) 855-2878
David Visitor
(Wemindji Coordinator)
Phone: (819) 978-0265

Société d'énergie de la Baie James

"Miracle Child" brings

By Steve Bonspiel

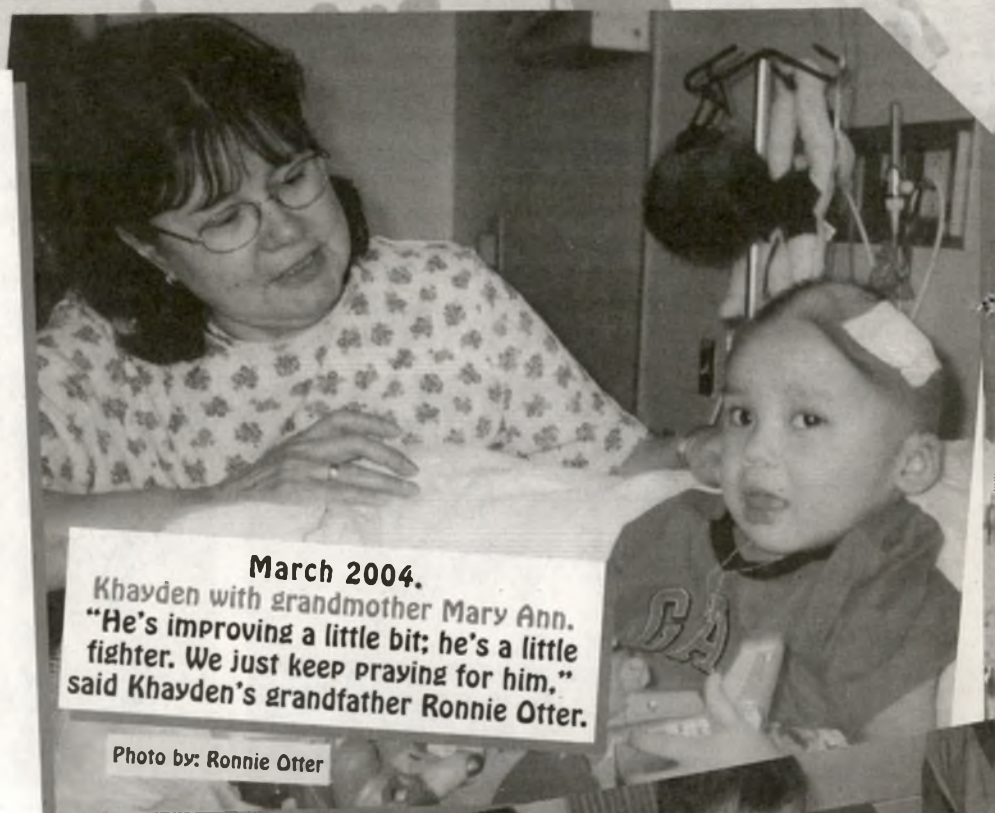
On February 8th, 2004 a horrific incident shocked and appalled the entire Cree Nation. A 28 year-old man from Winnipeg had savagely attacked little Khayden Otter-Rupert in his Waswanipi home.

Khayden was airlifted to Montreal Children's Hospital after falling into a coma.

Doctors gave him a 50-50 chance of survival.

When he got out of the coma, the two-and-a-half year old began the uphill battle to get back on his feet.

Miraculously, after two surgeries and seven months in hospital, the little guy not only came back to his home, but he was well enough to walk into the front door of his home under his own steam.



March 2004. Khayden with grandmother Mary Ann. "He's improving a little bit; he's a little fighter. We just keep praying for him," said Khayden's grandfather Ronnie Otter.

Photo by: Ronnie Otter

August 19th, 2004. Khayden's grandparents helping him at the airport. "This little boy made it through with three important things: hope, faith and love. It opened up the eyes of the whole Nation and made us understand the importance of love, which has been passed down from generation to generation," said Waswanipi Chief Robert Kitchen.

August 19th, 2004. "Doctors can do m with their hands with the help of God," s grandfather. "It was God who decide grandson a second chance, to walk and We're so happy right now."

CREE NATION TOGETHER

Photo by: Stanley Saganash

February 18th, 2004.
All nine communities had their own "walk against violence" as a result of the terrible tragedy. This is a photo taken in Waswanipi.

Photo by: Tiffany Deer

May 23rd, 2004.
Khayden's third birthday at the Hotel du Fort in Montreal. "It was very nice to see all these people, we didn't know there would be that many. He passed another milestone with his birthday today," said grandfather Ronnie Otter.

rvelous things
id his beaming
to give my
come home.

August 19th, 2004. Khayden walking home. "The elders said that when they heard that Khayden was on this trip they really wanted to see him after hearing and reading about what he went through. It's almost like Khayden's been leading me to tell these people about what happened to him," said grandfather Ronnie Otter.

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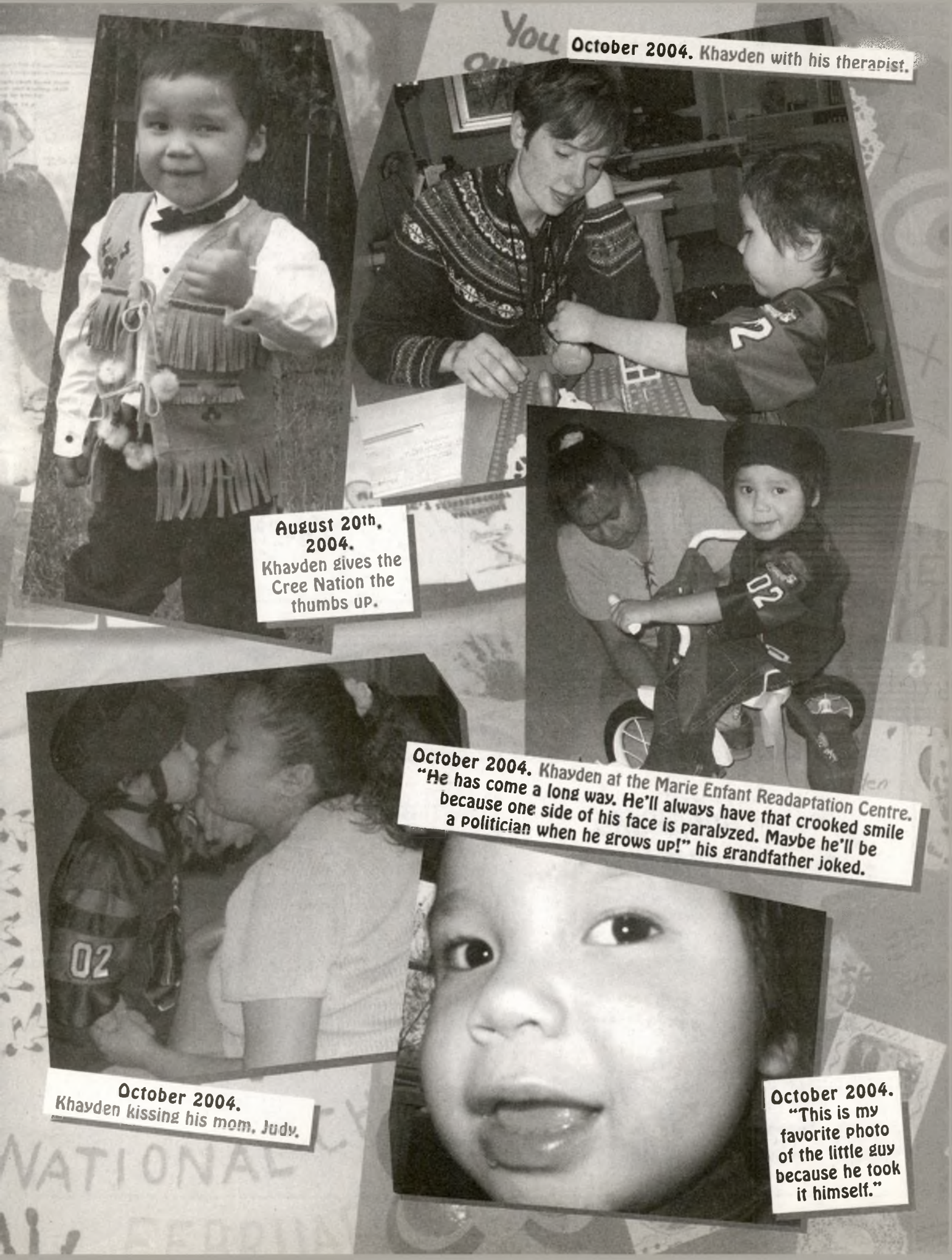

October 2004. Khayden with his therapist.

August 20th, 2004. Khayden gives the Cree Nation the thumbs up.

October 2004. Khayden at the Marie Enfant Readaptation Centre. "He has come a long way. He'll always have that crooked smile because one side of his face is paralyzed. Maybe he'll be a politician when he grows up!" his grandfather joked.

October 2004. Khayden kissing his mom, Judy.

October 2004. "This is my favorite photo of the little guy because he took it himself."

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CREE TRAPPERS
PAYING THE COST

To the Nation October 22, 2004

In the article in a recent Nation, "Members say Forestry board off to good start," I wish I can say that about our traplines where the forestry companies are taking advantage of them, even more so after the A.I.P (Peace of the Brave), was signed.

I work for the local Cree Trappers Association here in Waswanipi. The tallyman, hunters and trappers bring their complaints here first in regards to illegal activities on lands they use now, by forestry companies, sports hunters, and fishermen. Also, all the illegal cabins that are there now and new ones being built, without the slightest notification to us Cree people or our leaders.

Forestry companies, MNR (Quebec) and the game wardens (Chasse et de la Peche) out in the field, on our traditional traplines, the relationship between us Cree and them is at its lowest point ever. (Maybe we have to face the fact, it was always like that and that it will never change.) At the moment, after the A.I.P. was signed, nothing has changed out there on our traplines for the Crees. Nothing.

Maybe the forestry companies' behavior has something to do with it. I heard they felt left out or were not consulted about the A.I.P. before it was signed. I would like to tell them (forestry companies), welcome to the club of the "outcasts". Maybe now the forestry companies will know how the Cree hunters and trappers feel.

The forestry companies are getting worse and more brave to claim the land for themselves. In the James Bay territory, MNR and Chasse et de la Peche (Chibougamau and Quevillon), the forestry companies are letting non-natives trap all the beaver along the main logging roads. To totally get rid of them without the consent of the tallyman of that trapline or other users of it. Beaver is our main diet in winter and fall months, stored away for summer consumption also.

I thought that this was against the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement? Illegal? As a Cree hunter and trapper out on the trapline, you can just forget mentioning the illegal sports hunting and fishing cabins to M.N.R. (Quebec) or the non-native game wardens (Wildlife Officers) you do not exist at all to them. If I were to mention every single complaint the hunters and trappers brought to my attention in the last 11 years I've been here, you would have a hard time to believe me.

The truth will just blow you away. The truth will hurt. It will make you sad. It will make you so angry, you will not want to stop shaking your fist. (This is only for one Cree community, Waswanipi). After listening carefully, you'd think a conspiracy was there, that everybody and everyone was and is working against the Cree trappers and hunters out there.

You will face the fact there will always be people who will work against us Cree people. Because we are in their way, that's all. As an aboriginal and belonging to a hunting society in this world, you have to fight always to survive. For us, to defend the land, is to fight for life.

I thought that, at the least, signing the "Peace of the Brave" was about meeting halfway. The Cree hunters and trappers and their families are already at halfway point and nobody else is in sight. (Maybe it's a good time to bring out marshmallows, Ha! Ha!).

I can just imagine the headaches the other Cree communities are having with forestry and other developments just wanting to bulldoze them over. After the signing of any agreement or treaty between two nations, it's just not smooth sailing after that. I think we the Cree Nation should know better now. In any relationship (marriage) to stay together both parties have to give to the relationship hard, to make it work and that it stays together. We the Cree hunters and trappers did our part, to share the land. I think we are getting screwed over on this one, already! Somebody somewhere got their wires crossed. But, I know where the hatchet is buried!

In what I wrote, I mean no disrespect to anyone.

Respectfully,
Paul Dixon
Hunter/Trapper and Citizen of Waswanipi

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Wishing everyone in the Cree communities a

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SECRETARIAT TO THE CREE NATION - ABITIBI-TEMISCAMINGUE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

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Alcohol Still Hurts – 2

Alcohol still hurts me also and I've been sober now for over five years. Day in and day out, we see the effects that alcohol and other substances has on our people. This hurts me dearly.

As I read the stories about alcohol-related deaths in the *Nation*, I couldn't help but feel for all involved. Be it the victims, or the drivers. I have close relatives and friends that died due to substances. Whether it was from vehicle accidents, suicides, and now man-slaughter, they are gone. I fear for our future generations, and that undeniably includes my children's children's children.

The anonymous writer of "Alcohol Still Hurts" asks, "When will this trend ever end?" This is a very good question. Another question that needs to be asked, though, is how did this trend start in the first place and why? The answer is a sociological, and it's the key to breaking this dreadful trend.

By using what you call the "sociological imagination," you can figure out why this despair continues to take place. I'll explain. Let's say you take 20 families, and out of that 20 there are two families that are dysfunctional. With a figure like this, two families out of 20, you can agree that the problem is an isolated problem.

The problem lies within the family itself. Now, let's say you take another 20 families, and out of that 20, 16 families are dysfunctional. The situation needs to be viewed by a much larger scale. The problems lay far beyond just the families themselves.

Let me explain further. Let's say you have been rescuing one person after another who comes floating down the river. You continue to rescue to the point of exhaustion and at the same time almost lose your own life in the process. In fact, you will lose your life if you continue to remain focused on only the individual situation, which is to rescue the individual drowning.

By using the "sociological imagination" you will all of a sudden change your view of the situation. You will decide to walk up stream and find out who or what keeps throwing these people into the river and do something about it. This is the aim that needs to be taken by us as Crees if we are to end this dreadful trend that continues to take the many lives of our people.

While on our "Save the Rupert's River" walk this past summer, we met up with a retired sociology professor. I was so overwhelmed to meet him because he understood what I was talking about, and I understood him also. In fact, he specializes in the field of what I am trying to explain to our people. He specializes in the sociological effects of development and dependency. Damming rivers goes against our way of life, so it affects us sociologically in a negative way, and the compensation of money that comes with it also has a negative impact. We've become so dependent on the money that we've lost our independent pride along with our sacred lands and water.

Now that we may understand a bit what the problems are, we may ask what the solutions are. The solutions are not easy because it requires major changes of habit. Not only personal habits, but also bureaucratic habits. Not only do the social services need to do the work, but all of us need to become involved, and this includes our entities. We desperately need to regain a sense of independent pride that stands along side our cultural foundation.

A few of our chiefs are attempting to lead us in this "modern twist" direction. They are turning to alternatives such as developing wind energy and other solutions that can create a sustainable economy with jobs and still maintain our lands and culture. Bertie Wapachee quoted JFK: "Some people see things as they are and say why, I dream of things that never were and say why not." Yeah! Why not?

There is a lot more to the solutions, but this touches on the core. Use your sociological imagination and see where it takes you. Start by asking "why?"

For my friends who have moved on, I say rest in peace and we will see you again on the other side.

Sincerely,
Roger Orr

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Caisse populaire Desjardins de Waswanipi
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On behalf of Council & Administration we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

NISKAMOON CORPORATION: working for you

by Steve Bonspiel

For those of you who were wondering what the Niskamoon Corporation represents and how it affects you as a Cree person, we have the answers to your questions.

The Niskamoon Agreement was signed recently between the Grand Council of the Crees, the Cree Regional Authority and the nine Cree communities, and the Societe de l'energie de la Baie James and Hydro-Quebec.

The result was the creation of the Niskamoon Corporation that has swallowed up other organizations pertaining to the Crees and Hydro such as Apatisiiwin Corporation, Nadoshtin Companee and the Eeyou Namess Corporation to name a few.

John Paul Murdoch

"In the past, we would create a corporation to administer each agreement that we signed," said John Paul Murdoch, the secretary for Niskamoon. "Considering that we have 12 in place that made for a lot of different corporations. So what was happening for example was the band councils didn't know who they should send project proposals to. By amalgamating everything, it's automatic that it's sent to one place."

Another plus to the creation of Niskamoon is better communication with the people and more manpower to work for the people. "In the past we had many people sitting on the various boards of directors," Murdoch said. "So we had a lot of people to make decisions, but not a lot of people to carry it out. The Grand Council along with the chiefs, decided to create the Corporation that would see only eight people sitting on the board which meant staff in every community. That way in every community you will have someone you can go to to find out information on the different agreements."

Murdoch went on to say that these representatives within the community are mandated to sit down with the people and draft up possible project proposals.

Some of Niskamoon's principal objectives:

1. To facilitate, simplify and speed up access to the benefits, measures, resources and programs under the Cree-Hydro Quebec Agreements for the Crees, the Cree communities and for other Cree entities;
2. To provide a more efficient framework for cooperation between the Crees and Hydro-Quebec in respect to the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Quebec Agreements;
3. To bring better coherence to the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Quebec Agreements;
4. To regroup under the Niskamoon Corporation large parts of the administration and management of the Cree-Hydro-Quebec Agreements.

Niskamoon currently employs three regional coordinators and one representative in each community for a total of 12 workers. That number could change in the future, says Murdoch, depending on what each community requires.

There are various training programs available, but they had not been released by the Nation's deadline.

continued on page 33

WASWANIPI FIRST NATION

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Cree-Naskapi Commission

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La commission Crie-Naskapie

From all of us
at the Cree Naskapi Commission have
yourself a Safe and Happy Holiday

Merry Christmas

OU DAA ENTERPRISES
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Merry Christmas !

Have a peaceful and
safe Holiday Season

Merry Christmas!

Wishing you a
happy and
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On behalf of the members of the Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi,
We wish to extend our warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to all

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NISKAMOON CORPORATION: working for you

"Right now we're taking a wait and see approach," Murdoch said. "We're starting out small and we'll respond to needs as they come along.

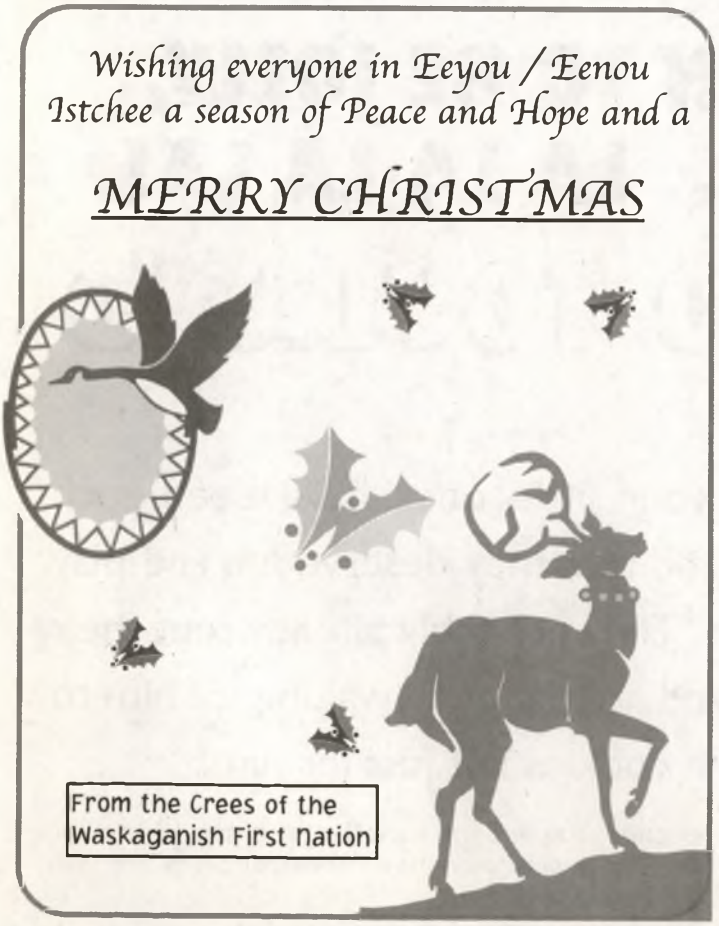
The programs available include:

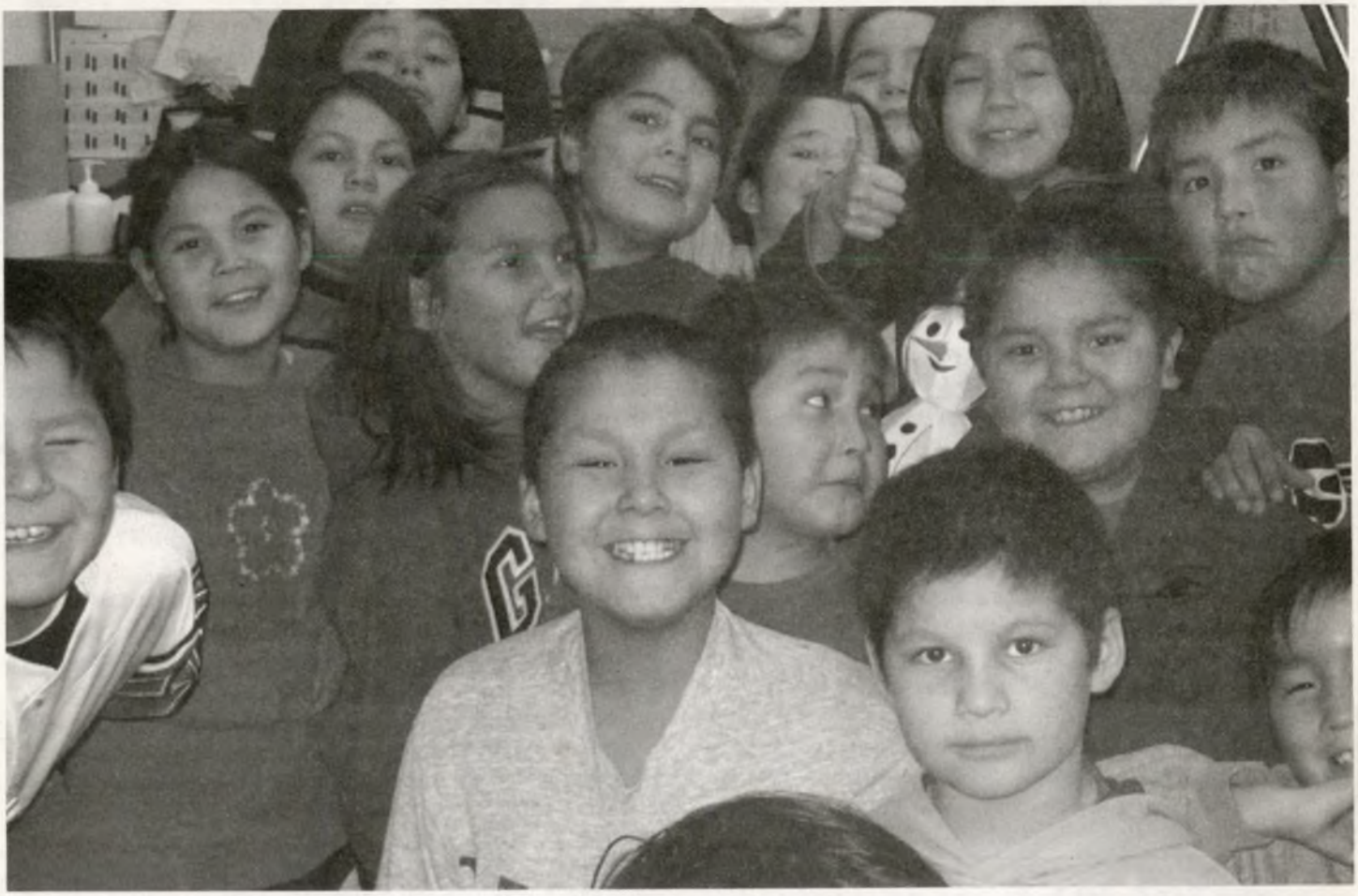
The Remedial Works Program: A Regional Coordinator in collaboration with Local Coordinators shall administer funds for the development, implementation and monitoring of remedial works throughout the territory for dealing with the impacts of hydro-electric development whether it is due to the actual hydro-electric structures or due to the related infrastructure.

Fisheries and Health Program: Another Regional Coordinator, in collaboration with Local Coordinators, shall administer funds for the development, implementation and monitoring of projects aimed at restoring Cree fisheries. Hydroelectric development did have a negative impact on Cree fisheries and funds have been set aside to deal with the issue of restoring Cree fisheries in a manner that considers the mercury issue related to hydro-electric development. Further, with a view to informing the population and managing health issues, the same coordinator as representative of the Niskamoon Corporation will work with the Cree Health Board and Social Services of James Bay to address health issues related to diet and possible contaminants that can be found in the environment.

Training and Employment: A regional coordinator in collaboration with local coordinators and principally the Cree School Board will administer funds which have been set aside for the purpose of assisting Cree individuals in accessing specific high tech employment opportunities with Hydro-Québec. Hydro-Québec has undertaken to immediately hire those Cree individuals who become qualified.

Further, funds have been set aside for assisting Crees to gain employment in the construction of the current EM-1 project in the form of incentives for entrepreneurs that hire Cree labour.


Wishing everyone in Eeyou / Eenou Istchee a season of Peace and Hope and a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
From the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation



'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY, FA LA LA LA LA... LA LA LA LA!

WELCOME TO TOYLAND

We know that all of your little ones have been such angels all year around that they deserve fun and play during the holidays. They probably already sent their wish list to Santa in the North Pole and are patiently waiting for him to come down that chimney and eat the cookies left just for him.

So *the Nation* wants to help you a bit with some toy selection. You will find here the list of top 10 toys for 2005 and some other hot pics. Have fun watching them unwrap their present and know that those precious moments are magic in a child's life.

Top 10 of 2005

1. **Air Rebound** by *Tyco* $50 to $80
2. **Uno Attack** by *Mattel* $25

3. **LEGO Harry Potter Chamber of Secrets** $70
4. **E-kara Real Karaoke Pro Headset System** by *Hasbro* $30
5. **Barbie "Shop With Me" Cash Register** by *Mattel* $60

6. **Our Generation 20-inch Champion Horse** by *BATTAT Incorporated*
7. **Play-Doh Activity World** by *Hasbro* $30
8. **14-inch Ultra Pose N' Stick Spider-Man** by *Toy Biz* $20

9. **Diva Starz Doll** by *Mattel* $10 to $25

10. **Hot Wheels Cars** by *Mattel* - various prices

Hot pics for the season

Bratz Funk Out Dolls $19.96 It's a fashion spectacular with Bratz™, the girls with a passion for fashion™! With new fashion looks that keep these funky and hip girls at the top of their game, Cloe™, Sasha™, Jade™, Yasmin™, Dana™ and the newest additions to the BratzPack™, Nevra™ and Fianna™ prove once again that looking good means feeling good!

Leap Pad Learning System $49.97 Books magically come to life with voices, music, silly sounds and games while children read. Place a book on the player, pop in the cartridge, and touch anywhere with the magic pen. Learn something new everyday.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles $7.93 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle action figures based on the characters seen in the new animated TV series. Each figure is fully articulated, meticulously detailed and stands about 5" tall. All figures come with authentic accessories just like the ones seen in the TV show.

Magical Hair Fairytale Dora $39.97 With a touch of a wand girls make Dora's hair magically grow. Style Dora's hair with her brush and barrettes, transforming Dora into a true princess.

Boohbahs Feature Plush $29.97 Boobahs are five colourful balls of energy, each powered by the laughter and joy of children all over the world. These vivid playful characters are always in silly, noisy motion, inspiring kids to get up off the couch and dance along with them.

Holiday Barbie $44.97 HOLIDAY™ BARBIE® DOLL For over a decade, Barbie® doll has celebrated each holiday season with a Special Edition doll commemorating the year. In 2004, Holiday Barbie® doll joins the proud tradition dressed in rich, green velvet embellished with glittering sparkles. The year's end brings a beautiful world of shimmering frost and perfect snowflakes. During this glorious holiday season, we receive the best gifts of all: family festivities, friendships renewed, and wonderful memories to last a lifetime. This keepsake is sure to be treasured by you and your family for generations to come.

Hot Wheels Rev Ups Skyway Track Set $29.97 The Rev Ups™ Skyway Stunt Set is a challenging environment that lets kids play with their Rev Ups™ vehicles and test their performance on a magical upside down and vertical track. Lots of amazing features like a vertical road that teeters and a bunch of loops make this playset the ultimate challenge for kids and their 4WD vehicles! Not for use with some Hot Wheels® vehicles

Fur Real Love Cub $39.97 Lovable bear cubs with lifelike movements and animation! "Feed" your bear with his very own bottle, play peek-a-boo with him, and don't forget to give him hugs! Assortment includes Panda Bear, Polar Bear and Brown Bear. Features: Electronic movement and animation. Realistic styling, plush fur. Comes with bottle. Batteries: Includes 3 "C" batteries. Ages: 4 and Up.

Here is a brief list of places that have toys for the children:

Zellers – in Chibougamau's Place Le Chainon 418-748-6487
Zellers – in Val d'Or's Carrefour du Nord-Ouest 819-825-5455
Giant Tiger – 825, 3e rue in Val d'Or
Wall Mart – in Val D'Or

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The deadline for reserving your ad space in the only phone book that links all the Crees of the James Bay area is coming up on *December 1st.*
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LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa,
I wish you were here in Eastmain. I will always visit you at your house. I love you so much, very, very much. I love your reindeer so much and I wish you give me a Ski-Doo and toys.
Love, Beth-June Weapenicappo xoxoxo

Dear Santa,
I want Spider-Man Battle and Doctor Octopus for Christmas.
Love, Robert Gilpin xo

Dear Santa Claus,
How old are your reindeer? How old are you Santa Clause? Santa I was wondering if you could make me an X-Box and a PlayStation 2? Could you also make some games for my new X-Box and PlayStation 2? Oh, and can I have a Ski-Doo too?
Love, Danny Polson

Dear Santa Claus,
Is it cold in the North Pole? I hope you find me this year.
Love, Jordan Gilpin xoxoxo

Dear Santa,
How are you? I need a Ski-Doo. Please and thank you.
Love, Casey Weapenicappo xoxo

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you today? How cold is it in the North Pole? Do you make toys? Can I have a Ski-Doo?
Love, Amanda Sunshine Gunner xoxoxo

Dear Santa,
How old are you? I want a Ski-Doo! I want you to wake me up if you come to my house because I want to see you. You didn't bring a Ski-Doo last year. But I was still happy. I love you very much, very, very much. I can't wait for Christmas Eve.
Love, Stacey Cheezo

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you Santa? How is your reindeer? I don't live in Moosonee no more and I hope you find me in Eastmain. I live in front of the school. I want: 1. Ski-Doo 2. Coot 3. Hummer 4. X-Box 5. Game Cube.
Love, Jari Williams

continued on page 39

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Sébastien Roy - Sales
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For this holiday season, the management and employees of the caisses, the Corporate Financial Centres and the Fédération are pleased to thank you for your confidence throughout the year and wish you happiness, health and prosperity on behalf of Desjardins.

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LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you? How is Rudolf? Is it really cold in the North Pole? It is snowing over here in Eastmain. I can't wait till you come to my house. I can't wait to open my presents. I wish for a Ski-Doo. Is it fun when you go on your sled?

Love, Kayla Jenna Lynn Shanush xoxoxo

PS: I love you very much Santa Clause.

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you doing? How is Dancer? Is it cold in the North Pole? Santa please come visit me Christmas Eve. Can I have an X-Box, Play Station 2 and games? I love you Santa and have a safe sleigh ride to Eastmain.

Love, Rodney Gilpin

Dear Santa,

I have tried to be a good boy all year. I am at the school now and decided to send you my Christmas wish list. For Christmas, I would like you to bring me: Vapor 20 Hockey stick and Bauer skates. I play hockey with the Eastmain Snipers Pee Wee team. Please be good to my little brother Franklyn, and bring him lots of toys.

From Clayton Trapper, grade 5, Wabannutao Eeyou School.

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you? How are your Rudolf? Is it cold in the North Pole? It is really cold here in Eastmain, I hope you find me this year. Santa, could you send me 1. Ya Gi oh Care (2 pack) 2. X-Box 3. Ski-Doo Artic Cat 440 4. Skates Nike.

From Troy

Cher Père Noel,

Je te remercie pour les cadeaux de l'an dernier. Je porte encore le manteau que tu m'as donné l'an dernier. Cette année je joue au hockey dans une équipe de garçons. Je suis bonne mais je serais meilleure avec un bâton de hockey synergique jaune. J'aimerais aussi avoir des patins de hockey Nike. J'ai été très sage comme toujours et je vais continuer à l'être cette année, c'est promis. Merçi encore. Au revoir.

Martina Cheezo.

Cher Père Noel,

Merçi encore pour les cadeaux de l'an dernier. Je joue au hockey avec le bâton que tu m'as donné l'an dernier et je suis bonne. Cette année j'aurais besoin d'un habit de hockey rouge et d'un casque rouge. Je n'ai pas été aussi gentille que j'aurais pu, mais je vais m'améliorer, c'est promis. Merçi à l'avance pour ces cadeaux. Fais attention en descendant de ton traineau. A bientôt.

Clarissa Weapenicappo.

Cher Père Noêl,

Merçi pour les cadeaux de l'an dernier. J'ai utilisé le bâton de hockey souvent. Cette année, j'ai besoin d'un équipement de hockey complet et d'un bâton synergique. Je joue avec l'équipe Snipers du village de Eastmain. Je n'ai pas été très gentil cette année, mais je m'en excuse. Je vais faire mieux l'an prochain.

Bye, bye.

Kyle Gilpin Cheezo.

Best wishes

For a bright

and

Beautiful Holiday Season

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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May the meaning of the season be deeper, its frienships stronger, its hopes brighter, as Christmas comes to you this year.

Happy Holidays

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BIRTHS – 100

I would like to congratulate my friend whom i chat with whenever we're both online.... lol. We got to be good friends. Her name is Stephanie Salt Diamond and to her husband, for the safe arrival of their daughter Stormie Joyce Hilda Diamond on Nov.22/04.Once again congratulations and may your new baby girl brings you more happiness and joy into your lives. Fr: Your online friend Stephanie O

BIRTHDAYS – 101

Happy birthday to my daughter Beverly-ann Meskino on Nov 27th. I love you, from your mom XXX

Happy birthday to Brian Pepabano on Nov 28th, have fun takke care yourself from us in Val D Or, high five, say happy birthday too! p.s don't party to much

Happy birthday to my dad and our grandpa Sam Kitty on Dec 3rd love your daughter Ann and your grandchldren Derek, Beverly-ann and Curtis ps wee miss you and love you

I would like to say Happy Birthday to my brother Lawrence Blacksmith on December 18,2004. Hope you have a wonderful one! Don't party too much. Also, Merry Christmas to everyone at 4 Maple st. From: Caroline, Skyler and Eric.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to my friend KRISTEN WAPACHEE in waswanipi, she is celebrating her birthday on december 3 and to her daughter ZOE on dec 14...happy birthday...and to my cousin...DARIUS BLACKSMITH..Happy birthday. Have fun ok...I hope all of you have fun on your birthday's.... sorry I'm not there...but ill be coming home soon...kristen, maybe ill see you in vald'or for the c.n.i.t only if your going...well bye, take care...have fun kristen!!!...:) from your buddy in ottawa....Hazel Icebound....ps.dont party too much...jk

Birthday wishes going out to someone very special in our lives, Eric Gull, who will be celebrating his birthday on Dec.23/04. We just want to let you know that we love you very much. Also, thank you for always being there for us whenever we needed you, and for all the support you've giving us. And most of all thank you for believing in me. So, hope you have fun on your birhtday cause you deserve it. Happy Birhtday! And Merry Christmas to you. With love, Caroline and Skyler.

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to our cousin Elston Lee who will be celebrating his birthday on Nov 24th. Hope you have a great time in Chisasibi. See you soon. And Happy Birthday to our other cousin Laurina on Dec 3rd Have a great day! Love from your three cousins at One Charlton.

Happy Birthday to my little brothers Bedabin and Shaun Neeposh (Dec. 14 & 2). Have fun on your birthday boys. I love you both very much and I enjoy your sleep overs at my place on weekends. Hope mom will take you guys to watch a movie at StarCite and to play games. Once again, happy birthday and I love you boys so much. Love, your only sister Queenie and brother-in-law Harry (Hull) xoxoxo

Birthday wishes going out to two very special people in our lives... our daddy ERIC BARIBEAU (on Dec. 16) and our baby brother ADRIAN JOHN BARIBEAU (on Dec. 27). We LOVE you both very much and Daddy, we miss you a lot!! We can't wait to see you again!!

I want wish Happy 1st birthday to my son Tyrus Norman Grant on December 2. Wow! You've grown so fast, It seem like it was only yesterday I've held you in my arms for the first time. You changed my life when you were born and made me the happiest person just by having you in my life, I love you my baby boy " Sheboo". Happy Birthday! With love your mommy Pris.W

Over the past year that we have been together, I just want to Thank you for every time that you have been there for me, for every kiss to show me that you care, for giving me your Love and respect and for accepting everything and everybody in my my life, I want you to know that I Love and appreciate you in so many ways. To Calvin, Happy Birthday on December 3 and hope your day is as wonderful as you are. Love, Joy & Eadan. Ojay.

ORBITUARIES – 105

In loving memory of a dear special grandmother who passed away on June 16th 2004. at 10:00 in the morning. This Christmas 2004 will not be the same for me ever again. It was hard for all of us but we knew we had to accept it cause you were sick. I'm happy that you are no longer in pain. Your are upthere watching down on us. Grandma, I

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miss you! I miss everything we did together, especially our laughs and most of all, I really miss going to your house with my kids to visit you. My little daughter was only two months old when you left. I will tell my kids how special you were to me. Grandma, when they told me you were gone, all I wanted to do is cry cause you were always there for me when I needed something. I thank you for everything you did for me. I will always remember you and I will never forget you. You'll be in my heart always. Goodbye for now grandma. I believe one day we will meet again. You are missed and loved by us. Your granddaughter Bella and your great grandchildren Marcus, Marisa and baby Mya.

PERSONAL – 300

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Well it's already been a year and yet it still feels like we only met yesterday. It's been though, walking this land with you, but never had I thought of ending the road. Through ups and downs, it has been a struggle but yet we still manage to find a way out of it, and to keep strong. I never thought we'd make it this far, but look at us now, made it through a year, and still going down that road of love. I can say it has been great, no wait it's all been wonderful. This year was the greatest year ever for me and I am sure glad I decided to call you that next night. Otherwise you would've never known me and I wouldn't have known how great of a person you are. And you wouldn't have been a part of my life right now. I don't know what I'b be doing right now if I didn't have you, my life would've been totally different. Having you in my life makes everything better. I love you so much my BOODA. I love being with you, love being in your arms, and most of all I love you for who you are. I am happy to say that I've got a great guy, I mean who would't say he's totally great! You are my sun, my moon, my stars, my guardian, my personal doctor, (lol) my love, and my life. Without you I wouldn't be me. Hoping we'll have a hell of a night and another great year to come. With lots of Love, Kisses and Hugs, your Naa Boo.

I want to wish a Happy First Christmas to my little girl, Mya Beauty Amber. She'll be 8 months old this Christmas. I hope you can open up your presents. I love you so much and I will always be here for you. Love always, your Mommy... I also want to wish a Happy First Christmas to my namesake Ashley June Amber. HAVE FUN AT CHRISTMAS X0X0X0

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May your holiday season be filled with the warmth of affection, much laughter, many memories, peaceful tranquility and the year-round fun that helps make our community such a wonderful one. May Christmas inspire each of us to give a little of what we have, to share a little of who we are, to help make this the kind of world that it was meant to be.

We here at the Nation and Beesum Communications wish everyone in Eeyou Istchee a safe and happy holiday season!

Nation

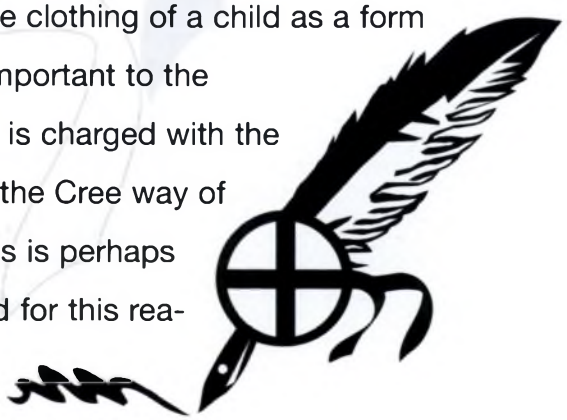
NISKAMOON
CORPORATION

Niskamoon Logo Introduction

First, the logo is simple in concept and nature which reflects the objective behind the creation of the Niskamoon Corporation. After more than thirty years of Agreements between the Cree and Hydro-Québec, a complex system of corporations and committees had emerged which did not allow for transparency and prevented community members from accessing the negotiated programs and benefits easily. The Corporation is therefore a simplification of this situation and the logo in its simplicity is a reflection of this.

Secondly, as stated, the Niskamoon Corporation arises from the fact that many Agreements had been signed between the Cree and Hydro-Québec / SEBJ. The name of the Corporation itself is the Cree word for "Agreement". This is the reason that a pen feather or "plume" is integrated into the logo.

Thirdly, as the Niskamoon Corporation is distinctly a Cree Corporation it was important to have an element that was distinctly and uniquely Cree. The hoop with the two ribbons whose ends form the "N" for "Niskamoon" is an item which is traditionally used for protection. Often a small hoop was made from a branch and two ribbons were tied around it forming the shape depicted in the logo. This item was then pinned to the clothing of a child as a form of protection for the child. This role of protection is important to the Niskamoon Corporation as generally the Corporation is charged with the protection of the Cree territory, the Cree Culture and the Cree way of life in the context of development on the territory. This is perhaps the most challenging mandate of the Corporation and for this reason the concerned item is prominently displayed.



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FIRST NATIONS PAVILION

Left to right: Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT, Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign. ***Mr Yvon Aubé on behalf of Aubé Pontiac Buick***, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign.

Left to right: Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT, Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign. ***Mr Pierre Ouellet, Mr Marcel Jolicoeur and Mr Claude McDonald president of Groupe Minier CMAC***, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign.

Left to right: Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT, Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign, ***Mr Roger Godbout president or Agence d'assurance Abitibi***, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign.

Left to right: Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT, Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign, ***Mr Gary Mommo director of Wolseley division Plomberie***, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign.

Left to right: Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT, Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign. ***Mrs Lina Lévesque of the Comfort Inn of Val-d'Or, Dr Ted Moses***, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign.

Left to right: Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT, Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign. ***Mr Daniel Cockburn of MON-TER-VAL Inc., Dr Ted Moses***, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign.

Left to right: Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT, Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign. ***Mr Richard Pelletier president of Hôtel / Motel Continental***, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign.

Thanks for your support!

Left to right: Mr Pierre Lafontaine, general director of Fondation de l'UQAT, Mr Fernand Trahan, mayor of Val-d'Or and co-president of the campaign. ***Mr Yves Beaudet of Vic Cantine***, Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and co-president of the campaign.

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Design 3D : TRAME

Happy Holidays!

At this special time of the year,
we present our best wishes for joyful holidays.
May this season be filled with energy
and warmth.

Société d'énergie de la Baie James

Hydro Québec